

REMARKS

The Examiner has required restriction in the above-identified application as follows:

Group I: Claims 1-22, drawn to a method for preparing an
 optical fiber for use as a transducer in a moisture sensor,
 classified in class 427, subclass 163.2.

Group II: Claims 23-40, drawn to an optical fiber moisture sensor,
 classified in class 385, subclass 128.

Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 1-22, for further prosecution at this time.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that examination of all currently pending claims would not pose an undue burden on the Examiner. Section 803 of The Manual of Patent Examining Procedure states that "[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." Applicants therefore respectfully request examination of all currently pending claims.

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for examination on the merits. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited. If any issues remain which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' counsel, Daryl A. Basham, Ph.D. at (202) 689-7978.

Respectfully submitted,

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